

Further Particulars of the Java Earthquake, by an Eye-witness.

The bark William H. Besse and the ship Anahae arrived at Boston on 7th December, the former from Manila and the latter from Calcutta. The Besse had a voyage of 195 and the Anahae 139 days. Captain Baker of the Besse says his bark was directly in the vicinity of Anjer, Java, at the time of the terrible disaster which killed thousands and changed the face of the land in and around Sunda Straits. He left Batavia on August 19th, (7) and on the following morning at daylight those on deck noticed a heavy bank of clouds rising from the west and obscuring the sun. At the same time the barometer dropped to 29.40 and again suddenly rose to 30.70. All hands were called and sails were taken off as fast as possible. Heavy showers of sand and ashes then commenced falling, completely covering the decks, masts and spars to a depth of several inches. By noon it had grown darker than the darkest night and began to blow a hurricane, but, strange to say, the sea remained perfectly smooth. Heavy rainbings, like distant thunder, were continually heard, and at intervals the sky was lighted up by lightning flashes. A strong smell of sulphur permeated the atmosphere and made it difficult to breathe. All hands were affected by this awful scene, and many of the sailors thought the world was coming to an end. Throughout the gale the tide set strongly to the westward and the bark drove through the water at the rate of fourteen knots an hour. At 3 p. m. the sky commenced to grow lighter, but the ashes continued to fall like snow.

On the following day the bark entered the Straits of Sunda and the extent of damage done was plainly to be seen. Whole islands had sunk and those that remained had changed in form. The north-western part of Krakatau Island had disappeared and Verelatin and Lang Islands, heretofore covered with trees, were completely bare. The sailors saw a very large number of dead bodies. The water for miles was covered with trees and corpses. The sea for 600 miles was a field of lava. They experienced a hurricane from the north-northeast, with a tremendous sea, which lasted three days. During this time the decks and cabin were flooded with water and a portion of the bulwarks and everything movable on deck was washed away. "The most fearful thing of all," said the captain, "was the sea of corpses. For nearly three days we came across body after body of persons who had lost their lives in the earthquake. One man counted sixty in plain sight at once. Thousands must have perished."

The Size of the Silver Question.

The object of the attack on the standard silver dollar is now pretty generally understood. It can be traced with certainty in nearly all cases to the Eastern money kings. All the holders of national bonds, most national banks and money lenders generally are engaged in it. They want to set up the single standard of gold, and in that way increase the value of that metal. They are striving to have debts contracted when gold and silver were equally legal tender, paid in gold alone. There are millions piled high in the project. By removing the standard dollar from the coinage their object will be effected. That was the game that was played in 1873.

The parties enlisted in this operation have immense power. They have statesmen, so-called, newspapers and clergymen in their employ. They can when they are so minded make a great noise and bring a powerful pressure to bear. But for all that we do not think they are going to be successful this time. The country is better educated on the subject of finance than it was ten years ago. The great army of borrowers, the Government itself as a borrower, and the States, cities and counties in the same relation, are not going to allow such a march to be stolen on them. There is one simple method of getting rid of the apparent overstock of legal tender, paid in Treasury notes, which place in the currency which they were designed to fill. If the one dollar and two dollar silver plasters, the bills of small denomination which are found in the circulating medium of no other civilized community, were withdrawn, as they ought to be, there would not be an undesired silver dollar in the treasury in a short time. The lowest denomination for which paper should be issued is \$5.

It may be added that it is a mistake to suppose that the silver is a question of importance only to a small group of States. On the contrary, it is a question of broad and as long as the country. It goes to the very root of our system of currency. Pampering with it cannot fail to bring on a stagnation similar to that which from other causes fell on the country recently. The money kings, everywhere, ought to be content to get back their money on the same terms on which they loaned it. If they are greedy and grasping they may not fare so well. At all events it is not wise to promote on a popular ignorance which possibly does not exist.—S. F. Bulletin.]

A Billiard Exploit.

Several months ago Samuel Baldwin of St. Louis got a standing offer of \$50 to any one who would run 350 points or better in his hall. Quite a number of the local experts have tried to capture the prize and on the 30th November William Cotton of St. Louis, who is said to play the long talk of match with Dean of California, took down his cue and his luck. Cotton is a well-known and popular player. After several games and the defeat of the sport began. Never before have such hands been seen in St. Louis, or any other place. In fact, when he reached 350 Sam Baldwin, who was standing by, said: "There goes \$50 of my money. Billy, I'll give you \$100 if you beat 429, which is the biggest run ever made in this hall."

Cotton accepted the proposition and kept on a cool and unconcerned. On turning 429 Baldwin made him an offer of \$10 more if he reached 500, and another gentleman said he would add \$50 if he beat Schaeffer's run of 695, which he made in his match with Slosson in Chicago. Cotton chalked his cue and remarked: "Perhaps Donovan would like to see me make 700. If he does, I will try to accommodate him."

When 600 was reached a crowd of 200 had filled the hall. Finally 695 was reached. Cotton continued without a break until he had scored 719, when he missed an easy shot. The game is the talk of the town and Cotton is the hero of the hour.

A Hanoi dispatch confirms the report of the breaking out of the revolution at Hue, and the poisoning of King Hiepweh. The new King of Annam is Tiephoa. The influence of the anti-French mandarins is paramount at Hue, and war against France is proclaimed. The French force in charge of Hue is not sufficient for the new danger, and reinforcements are necessary.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

The Oceanic Co's S. S. Alameda, Captain Morse, arrived shortly after noon on Saturday last bringing dates from the Coast to the 15th instant. We clip the following from foreign files:

The trial of O'Donnell for the murder of James Carey began on 30th November before Judge George Denny in the Old Bailey Police Court. The small courtroom was crowded. Charles Russell, A. M. Sullivan, Solicitor Grey and Roger A. Pryor were present as counsel for O'Donnell. Sir Henry James, the Attorney-General, and Poland Andreu Swigart appeared for the Government. O'Donnell entered the dock from the adjoining prison, surrounded by officers, and seemed unconcerned. Sir Henry James opened the case for the Government. He described Carey's capture from England and the voyage to Cape Town, and said there was no one to improve the prisoner's conduct but a new witness, Corbett, would testify that at Cape Town he gave the prisoner his urgent request, a rough sketch of Carey, and the prisoner remarked upon seeing it, "I'll shoot him." The Attorney-General repeated the details of the murder of Carey and pressed upon the jury the fact that the act was not committed in self-defense, but was a willful premeditated murder. He emphasized the fact that O'Donnell had not allowed the feeling against Carey to prejudice them in their consideration of the case.

O'Donnell listened closely to the address of the Attorney-General. Russell urged the jury, in considering the case, to distrust their minds all they may have heard upon the subject of killing Carey. The prisoner did not deny the shooting of Carey and the question for the consideration of the jury was, "Did he do it under a reasonable apprehension of his life?" If so, they should acquit him. If, shot of this, O'Donnell acted only under a threat of personal violence, they could not convict him of murder, although it might not be possible to let him go free altogether; the statement if utterly false that O'Donnell went on board the steamer Kinsman's Castle to track Carey like a sleuthhound, at the bidding of a secret society, those were only newspaper charges, which he would denounce. He compared O'Donnell, who he said, was a hard-working man, with Carey, who was a villain, executed by the people, unpardoned by the Queen, known to be cruel, treacherous and desperate, and who, faced by a man likely to denounce him, would not scruple to resort to any weapon to overcome or kill, and who, in all his murderous conspiracies, took care of his own life. It was unreasonable to suppose that if O'Donnell had premeditated the murder of Carey he would have committed it in the presence of several witnesses.

With dramatic effect, Russell gave O'Donnell's own story of the murder. Upon completion of the Judge's charge the jury, at 7 P. M., retired to deliberate. When the jury first retired O'Donnell stood up in the dock and looked about with great composure. The jury first returned to ask, "If a man had a deadly weapon in his hand and another thought he was about to use it against him and shot the former, would it be manslaughter or murder?"

The Judge replied that it would be neither, but he asked, "Where was the evidence of any act done by Carey which induced O'Donnell to think that Carey meant to shoot him?"

The Judge carefully defined the law of murder, as applied to the present case, quoting authorities in support of his definition and application. The jury then again retired and returned in four minutes with a verdict of willful murder.

When Judge Denman asked O'Donnell if he had anything to say in mitigation of the death sentence he passed on him, he made no reply. The Judge then passed the sentence of death in the usual form. The prisoner then wanted to speak, but the Judge, however, ordered his removal and the police seized him, when O'Donnell held up his right hand, fingers extended, and shouted, "Three cheers for old Ireland, Good-by, United States! To hell with the British and the British Crown!" It is a plot made up by the Crown? and the prisoner, shouting, cursing and struggling, was forcibly removed by the police amid the most fearful confusion and slamming of doors.

The Daily Telegraph understands that the Home Secretary has decided that on no grounds will he interfere with the execution of O'Donnell. In reply to the request of the American Government to postpone the execution pending enquiries in reference to O'Donnell's citizenship, answer has been sent that the Government have carefully considered the matter, and is convinced that no reasonable ground has been assigned to warrant a stay of execution.

The staff of La Lanterne entertained Bradlaugh at a reception on the 13th December. Two hundred persons were present. Mayor, director of La Lanterne, in welcoming Bradlaugh, used the same words addressed to him by the Tourne delegation in 1871: "Bradlaugh is and always will be, under the Republic, our fellow citizen." Bradlaugh made a suitable reply, in which he extolled the French Republic.

Every preparation is being made in Canton to place the city in a defensive condition. The Chinese forts look well, but really are weak. They have granite and cement facing, which will soon shell off under continued cannonading. The approach to Canton will be barred by sinking junk, filled with stones. A large fleet is now ready and others are being built for this special purpose. All the high mandarin express determination to protect foreigners at all hazards.

Jottings from Foreign Papers.

A Fenian named Joseph People was tried last month for murder and found guilty. Before sentence was passed, he emphatically denied that he committed the murder, and went on to say that, in admitting that he was a member of the Fenian Brotherhood, he would be proud to go to the scaffold for being a member of it. Its object was not to commit murder, but to free Ireland from the tyrannical rule of England. He believed he was persecuted because he was an enemy of the Government under which he had the misfortune to live. People acknowledged being in Kennedy's company on the night of the murder, but declared that he had no hand in striking him down. He had belonged to the Brotherhood since he was eighteen years of age, but he had never belonged to the Vigilance Committee. His purpose was to wait until his countrymen were prepared to strike a blow for independence, when he would co-operate with them. In conclusion he said: "I am not a Fenian, I am a Fenian, all I Fenian, Ireland! Three cheers for the Irish Republic! To hell with English tyranny!" The Court then pronounced sentence of death upon the prisoner.

Advertisements.

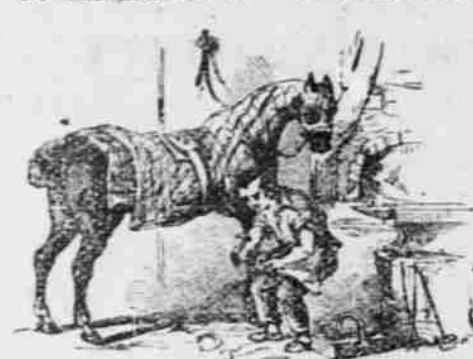
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